

CLAIMS

1. A process for handling and stacking a plurality of thermoformed objects , which comprises the following steps:

- obtaining thermoformed objects each formed with at least three stacking protrusions or spacers arranged in a same pattern on the bottom of each thermoformed object, at least one stacking protrusion or spacer being located in such a way as to be out of symmetry with respect to other stacking protrusions with respect to at a centre line (m-m),
- arranging said thermoformed objects on a support template to keep them in order,
- rotating every other thermoformed object by a predetermined angle before or during their transfer to a stacking station, and
- stacking the thermoformed objects with alternate thermoformed objects rotated by said predetermined angle to obtain stacks of thermoformed objects, wherein the stacking protrusions of a thermoformed object are offset with respect to those of the next thermoformed object in each stack.

2. A process according to claim1, wherein the the step of turning the thermoformed objects includes

- picking up thermoformed objects from a supporting template,
- turning the thermoformed objects about a vertical axis, while the thermoformed objects are lifted, and
- placing the thermoformed objects rotated through the predetermined angle on the same template or on another template loaded with thermoformed objects that have not been turned.

3. A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoformed objects are rotated through an angle of 180°.